In This Issue: Pokémon GO | SJRMC: Understanding Medicare | Government in Action | Upcoming Events

Mishawaka Communicator ⅿⅿ

Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor   www.mishawaka.in.gov   **August 2016**

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood

You never know what a new day may bring in Mishawaka. Such is the case with the recent Pokémon GO craze which has spread throughout the country in such a short time. This phenomenon has brought literally thousands of new visitors to our Princess City parks – EACH DAY. In fact, I was driving by Beutter Park the other evening around 9:30pm and was amazed at the number of cars and people at the park. It actually looked like a large event was happening in the park. Knowing that was not the case, I stopped to see what was going on and found people wondering around in groups with their phones held out in front of them and quickly realized these were Pokémon GO hunters avidly searching for Pokémon in our park. For those of you, who have not heard about this new game, let me give you some details.

The first thing I learned is to always make sure to pronounce the name correctly or you may get an eye roll or verbal lashing before giving you the correct pronunciation by the Pokémon player. It is NOT pronounced Pokéy man as I am prone to say; the correct pronunciation is "Pokie" (long o) "mon" (short o). Pokémon is Japanese for "Pocket Monsters," and the game has always been about collecting monsters by throwing PokéBalls at them. Now, there is an app for that. The magic of the app is that it mixes reality with game play by using your smartphone's GPS and camera to have collectible Pokémon appear all around you. The game makes you feel like you are on a treasure hunt catching Pokémon in real life. It encourages players to get on their feet and step outside to find and catch wild Pokémon. I especially like the fact that it has caused our citizens and visitors, especially younger people, to get out and explore Mishawaka while they capture as many Pokémon as possible. PokéStops, where you collect PokéBalls and other items, are located in interesting places such as public art installations, historical markers, and monuments.

When you're near a Pokémon, your smartphone will vibrate to let you know. Once you've encountered the Pokémon, take aim and throw a PokéBall to catch it. Be careful when you try to catch it, or it might try to run away! You will customize your Trainer (player) and choose the apparel and accessories to give him the "look you want". He will move around on the map and other players will see your character when they visit a Gym you control. You will gain levels as a Trainer which allows you to catch more powerful Pokémon.

Understanding Medicare
Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Medicare is health insurance for people over 65 and for certain younger people who have been on Social Security Disability for 24 months. Medicare has several parts to help cover your medical and prescription costs, but it doesn't cover everything.

Original Medicare (Part A Hospital and Part B Medical) does not cover all your expenses should you get sick or injured, and it doesn't cover medications you get from a pharmacy. You have additional options to help cover your expenses and minimize your out-of-pocket costs, like Part C Medicare Advantage plans, Part D Prescription Drug plans and Medigap (Medicare Supplement) plans. Medicare can be confusing, and the government makes changes to the benefits it provides on a yearly basis. Insurance companies also make changes, so it's important to review your current coverage annually.

School will be starting this month. Remember…watch for children and obey the school zone speed limits!

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Aug 27-28   Michiana Renaissance Festival *(Kamm Island)*

Aug 29   Harvest Dance *(Battell Park)*

Sep 4   Heritage Festival *(Central Park)*

mishawakaheritagefestival.com

Sep 5   Mishawaka Promise 5K Run/Walk

Register online at

https://runsignup.com/race/in/mishawaka/mishawakapromise5k

Family Movie Nights

beginning at dusk unless otherwise noted

Aug 13   "Finding Nemo" *(Merrifield Pool)*

Aug 27   "Remember the Titans" *(Merrifield Park)*

Sep 2   "An Evening of Stories and Histories of Mishawaka" *(Battell Center, 7pm)*

Sep 16   "The Good Dinosaur" *(Battell Center, 7pm)*

Send your questions, comments, or concerns to communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

Pokémon GO is available for download at no charge from the App Store and Google Play and is free to play. For players who want to enhance their Pokémon GO experience even more, certain items and features can be accessed via in-app purchases. Players can spend real money on PokéCoins, which can then be exchanged for power-ups, extra items, and other enhancements.

The Mishawaka Police Department does caution that they have some concerns for the participant's safety while playing this game. Players need to stay vigilant and be aware of their surroundings. It is best played in public where large crowds gather and with friends. You need to watch where you're going so you don't run into another player or worse yet, walk out in front of a car. Please be respectful toward our parks and obey the rules that make it safe for all of us. When you see rare finds posted at 2:00am and 3:00am in one of our parks, be aware that it could be a trap since our parks are closed between 10:30pm and 5:00am. If you're under 18 years of age, don't be out after curfew.

How long this new craze will last is anyone's guess; it could last for years or actually be a fad that will have run its course by the time you read this article. The best thing about Pokémon GO is that it is getting people outside and into our parks who otherwise may never take the opportunity to see what a great park system the City of Mishawaka has to offer. Remember, I want everyone to enjoy this new game, visit our parks and stay safe at the same time. Good luck on playing Pokémon GO.

Mayor Dave

Understanding Medicare *(continued)*

When does Medicare start?

Your Medicare coverage starts on the first day of your birthday month when you turn 65. If you are under 65 and become eligible for Medicare due to a disability, it will become effective on the first day of the 25th month of your disability.

Once enrolled in Medicare, the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) is Oct. 15 - Dec. 31. During AEP you may:

- Review and change your Part D prescription drug plan for next year.
- Change your Part C Medicare Advantage plan for next year.

However, you can apply for a Medigap (Medicare supplement) plan any time of year under certain circumstances.

Government In Action

The Mishawaka Utilities Water Division is again painting fire hydrants this summer. In 2015, we painted approximately 800 hydrants. This year, our goal is to paint more than 1000. There are almost 3000 hydrants in Mishawaka, and it should take at least one more year to paint all of them.

A group made up of mostly high school and college students are doing their best to freshen up the hydrants in red, white and blue. If you have any questions about the hydrant painting please feel free to call the Water Division at (574) 258-1652.

MISHAWAKA PARKS & RECREATION

Summer Concert Series 2016

Battell Park Bandshell
Mondays
7:00-8:00pm

Aug 1	Pat Heiden Quartet
Aug 8	Michiana Concert Band
Aug 15	Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus
Aug 22	Mike Vaszari Combo
Aug 29	Harvest Dance

Beutter Park
Thursdays
6:30-8:30pm

Aug 4	Marty Miles Band
Aug 11	Moonshine Crooners

Eberhart-Petro
Fridays
7:30-9:00pm

Aug 5	Bryan Edington
Aug 12	Michael Smith

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at

http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator

ONLINE ACCESS

http://mishawaka.in.gov

http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka

http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator

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